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/Erin Cowles/  
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No.	:	09/364,788	Confirmation No. 9878
Applicant	:	Benjamin N. Eldridge	
Filed	:	July 30, 1999	
TC/A.U.	:	2839	
Examiner	:	Prasad, Chandrika	
Docket No.	:	P84-US	

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

To Whom It May Concern:

Listed on an attached Form PTO/SB/08A is information known to applicant(s). Applicants ask that the attached Form PTO/SB/08A be initialed and returned in accordance with MPEP §609. This statement is not intended to represent that a search has been made or that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56.

**COMMONLY OWNED, RELATED U.S. PATENTS AND APPLICATIONS**

**Applicants note that citation numbers 1-5 in the attached listing are U.S. patents or applications that are commonly owned with the above-identified patent application and may contain subject matter that is related to the subject matter of the above-identified patent application.** The Examiner's attention is therefore directed to the prosecution history of the foregoing related U.S. patent(s) and patent application(s) and prior art cited in these patent(s) and patent application(s); Applicants assume the Examiner has access to all of the prosecution history, including the cited prior art, of these patents(s) and patent application(s), but Applicants will provide copies of all or any part of the prosecution history of or prior art from any of these patent(s) or patent application(s) upon request.

- ☒ This statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (b) because (check all that apply):
- ☐ It is being filed within 3 months of the application filing date (other than the filing date of a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d)); or
  - ☐ It is being filed within 3 months of entry of a national stage; or
  - ☐ It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action on the merits; or
  - ☒ It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114.
- ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c). If this statement is being filed three months after the filing date of a national application or entry of the national stage in an international application and the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits but before the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action, a notice of allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, then:
- ☐ a statement as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; **or**
  - ☐ a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.
- ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d). If this statement is being filed after the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113, a notice of allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, but before payment of the issue fee, then:
- a statement as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; **and**
  - a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.

*Fee:*

- ☒ No fee is due.
- ☐ A check that includes \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the above-identified fee(s) is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment is provided by credit card.
- ☐ This statement is filed as one part of a multi-part submission. The fee for the complete submission was included in an electronically filed submission on \_\_. Applicants request the foregoing fee be accepted for this statement. (See OG Notice dated 17 September 2002.)

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 17, 2007

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Modified Form PTO/SB/08A

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)		<i>Complete If Known</i>	
		Application Number	09/364,788
		Filing Date	July 30, 1999
		First Named Inventor	Benjamin N. Eldridge
		Group Art Unit	2839
		Examiner Name	Prasad, Chandrika
No. of Sheets: 1	No. of Refs.: 6	Attorney Docket No.	P84-US

U.S. PUBLISHED PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publ./Issue Date	Related <sup>#</sup>	Copy Enclosed
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup>				
	1.	6705876		Eldridge	3/16/2004	Yes	No**
	2.	6948941		Eldridge	9/27/2005	Yes	No**
	3.	7169646		Eldridge	1/30/2007	Yes	No**
	4.	2007/0123082		Eldridge	5/31/2007	Yes	No**

U.S. UNPUBLISHED PATENT APPLICATIONS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Serial No.	Name of Applicant	Filing Date	Related <sup>#</sup>	Copy Enclosed
	5.	08/824,988	Eldridge	3/27/1997	Yes	No <sup>&amp;</sup>

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document Office <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup>			Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publ. Date	T <sup>6</sup>	Copy Enclosed
	6.	WO	98/01906		Khandros et al.	1/15/1998		Yes

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

\*\* Reference cited in parent application US Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_ CFR § 1.98(d)

\*\*\* Pre-OG Notice By Deputy Commissioner Stephen G. Kunin dated July 11, 2003 waiving the requirement to file copies of US patent publications in applications filed after June 30, 2003.

& Notice dated October 19, 2004 by Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy waiving requirement to file copies of pending US patent applications if the applications are stored in the USPTO's IFW system.

# Commonly owned US patent or application whose subject matter may be related to the subject matter of the instance patent application.